

Dear Healthcare Provider:

This purpose of this letter is to inform you that I have been diagnosed with Carbapenem-Resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE). *Enterobacteriaceae* are an important cause of community-acquired and healthcare-associated infections. They cause a wide range of infections, including urinary tract infections, bacteremia, pneumonia, and wound infections. Carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE) infections are usually resistant to most, if not all, antibiotics and are therefore very difficult to treat. Patients can be infected or colonized with CRE. Once they have acquired CRE, they are considered to be infectious indefinitely. This type of resistance is spreading in the United States and West Virginia, so education on prevention is key.

This infection can spread in various ways. Usually, CRE spreads from person to person, especially through healthcare worker's hands, after contact with infected wounds, urine, stool or other body fluids, although it can also be spread through contaminated medical equipment or contaminated patient environments. Indwelling medical devices like intravenous catheters and urinary catheters put patients at higher risk for acquiring CRE infections.

I am notifying you about my condition so that you may take appropriate steps to protect yourself, your staff and your patients. Proper infection control practices should be observed, including contact precautions, as well as diligent hand hygiene and environmental cleaning during and after my visit.

For more information on CRE, please contact your local health department or the West Virginia Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology (DIDE) at 304-558-5358 ext. 1 and/or visit the websites below:

- CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/hai/organisms/cre/cre-clinicians.html>
- DIDE: <http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/AtoZ/Pages/CRE.aspx>
- APIC: <http://www.apic.org/Resources/Topic-specific-infection-prevention/cre>
- CDC: Get Smart About Antibiotics: <http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/healthcare/>

Thank you in advance for your attention to this serious matter.

Most Sincerely,

Your patient